



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 7 March 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to the Associated Press, two airplanes carrying more than 100 passengers narrowly averted a mid-air collision east of Pittsburgh after an Ohio air traffic control trainee told a Delta Air Lines pilot to turn into the path of an oncoming plane, officials said. The Delta pilot made a nosedive and missed the plane by about 400 feet. (See item [11](#))
- CNN reports that authorities are searching for a man on a bicycle as a possible suspect in the Thursday bombing at a military recruiting station in Times Square, investigators said. The blast, around 3:45 a.m., caused no injuries. Subway service to Times Square was briefly halted but resumed in time for the morning rush hour. A witness and an officer at a police substation near the recruiting office saw a man riding a bicycle. (See item [28](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 6, Associated Press* – (International) **Oil prices spike to record \$105.10.** Oil prices hit a record \$105.10 a barrel Thursday, a day after a surprise drop in U.S. crude supplies and a decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) not to boost production. Most analysts had expected the U.S. Energy Department's Energy Information Administration (EIA) to report oil stocks rose last week for the

eighth straight time. Instead, the stocks fell 3.1 million barrels. On Wednesday, OPEC ministers cited falling demand in announcing their decision to hold production levels steady, at least for now. The EIA report and OPEC announcement fed a new frenzy of investing in oil futures, which have risen to new inflation-adjusted records this week as the falling dollar drew investors to the market. Analysts noted that U.S. oil inventories are at historical highs despite last week's decline in crude supplies. Meanwhile, demand for gasoline is falling, and several forecasters have cut their oil demand growth predictions for this year.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080306/oil_prices.html

2. *March 5, Beaumont Enterprise* – (Texas) **Pipeline spews pillar of fire.** A natural gas pipeline fire in Newton County, Texas, had burned itself out Wednesday evening but personnel continued to watch the site for flare-ups, a sheriff's department dispatcher said. The pipeline, owned by Truckline Gas Co., caught fire at about 2 p.m. after a tanker-trailer exploded, a county judge said. Five Truckline employees had just finished cleaning the pipeline and were loading natural gas into the tanker-trailer. The employees needed to make a phone call. Their safety regulations require them to move away from the pipeline before using a phone. The explosion occurred as the employees used the phone. After the initial blast, flames shot 150 feet into the sky. Officials shut down the valve feeding gas into the pipeline at Merryville, Louisiana.

Source:

http://www.southeasttexaslive.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19364138&BRD=2287&PA G=461&dept_id=512588&rft=6

3. *March 5, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **FPL reports reduced outages in 2007.** In a report filed with the Public Service Commission, Florida Power & Light (FPL) announced that the average customer was without power for 73.2 minutes in 2007, an improvement of about a minute from the 74.3 minutes of 2006, but still considerably worse than the 69.6 minutes of 2005. In its report, FPL said it spent \$47 million in 2007 for hardening. That included building 34 stronger feeder lines serving 28 acute-care hospitals and four feeders serving the nuclear units at Turkey Point and St. Lucie. More than 40 highway crossings on Interstate 75 and Florida's Turnpike were also hardened to meet extreme wind conditions. During the year, the utility also inspected 129,000 wooden poles and over 13,500 transmission structures. In 2008, FPL plans to spend \$77 million on hardening costs, including 52 feeders serving 49 acute-care facilities. The utility said it will also inspect another 133,000 wooden poles.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/business/story/444339.html>

4. *March 5, Mexico Ledger* – (Missouri) **Firefighters ready to douse ethanol fire blaze.** Local entities are in the planning stages, or already have prepared, for effective response should an ethanol-based fire emergency occur within Audrain County, Missouri. Ethanol-based fires require an alcohol-resistant foam which uses polymers to smother flames. "We're good to go on that," said the director of Mexico Public Safety, regarding alcohol-resistant foam. "We've had it on hand for some time, a sufficient supply for most normal circumstances." He said the department currently has 45 gallons of the proper material to combat an ethanol-sourced blaze. "We do have plans to acquire" the

special firefighting foam, said the chief of the Little Dixie Fire Protection District, adding that the material is readily available from such corporate entities as 3M. He recommended a purchase of 50 gallons of the material. Assessing response to a local incident involving a truck or train carrying ethanol, he said assistance from area mutual aid departments would be necessary. Mutual aid arrangements are also in place for effective response to large-scale fires involving more traditional material. He also said his staff is trained in proper application process of the material.

Source: <http://www.mexicoledger.com/articles/2008/03/05/news/news01.txt>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to Report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *March 6, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **NRC plans security test for Vt. Yankee.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be conducting a security review of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in the near future. A spokesman for the NRC said security reviews will include “force-on-force” exercises, inspections of physical barriers at the plants, and identification and screening processes. The force-on-force exercises, which are conducted every three years, involve a team of mock intruders who attempt to breach security measures. “Mock intruders do their best to penetrate the plant’s security barriers and attack target sets,” he said. Target sets are described as “crucial pieces of plant equipment. It’s the security program’s job to try to repel them.” Intruders will also attempt to penetrate security checkpoints using false IDs and other means. The mock intruders and the plant’s security personnel, provided by private contractor Wackenhut, are furnished with MILES equipment – Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System – which is used to gauge the effectiveness of a security program. Source: http://www.reformer.com/ci_8471731?source=rss_viewed
6. *March 5, Salt Lake Tribune* – (National) **Comment period extended for foreign nuke waste import issue.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has set June 10 as the new deadline for commenting on EnergySolutions’ request to import low-level radioactive waste from Italy. On Tuesday, the NRC noted it had “had a number of requests for an extension” of the original comment period, due to end March 12. Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_8459016
7. *March 5, Reuters* – (International) **Shared databases could deter nuclear threat.** International databases to share information about nuclear and radioactive materials are urgently needed to help deter potential nuclear threats, a team of scientific and policy experts said on Thursday. More than 70 experts from Britain, the U.S., Russia, Israel, and the rest of Europe said in a report published by Britain’s Royal Society that such databases would make it easier to track and determine the source of these materials. The

ability to do this could present a powerful deterrent to would-be suppliers of illicit nuclear goods knowing that they could more easily be found out, said an expert who led the team. “Consistent international materials databases, used alongside surveillance and intelligence, will undoubtedly improve the prevention of nuclear threats and will build international confidence in nuclear security,” the report reads.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080306/tc_nm/nuclear_database_dc_1

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 5, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Navy mulls new F/A-18E/F buy.** The U.S. Navy is considering buying 69 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet fighters to bridge a “strike-fighter gap” that commanders fear it could imperil aviation readiness at a time when older jets are wearing out before new aircraft are ready to take their place, top service officials said March 5. After a Senate hearing, the chief of naval operations said Navy planners worried that many of today’s Super Hornets would be at the end of their service lives by about 2015, but their scheduled replacement, the F-35 Lighting II, might not be ready to fill the vacancies in carrier air wings. They also worried that the exiting fighters would wear out quicker than planned. He said he does not know if the Navy would buy the existing E- or F-variants of the venerable fighter or if planners would be interested in a so-called “4.75 generation Hornet” with improved avionics that manufacturer Boeing has mentioned as an option for some defense clients.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3407805&c=AME&s=SEA>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *March 6, Better Business Bureau* – (National) **Tax-season scams bring many unhappy returns.** Better Business Bureau warns that every tax season scam artists come out to prey on unsuspecting consumers. Posing as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) through mail, e-mail, or the telephone, identity thieves and many other types of fraudsters are on the prowl looking to get their hands on taxpayer’s personal information. Tax-scam promoters have cost the U.S. Treasury an estimated \$2.5 billion, and affected more than 500,000 consumers in the past seven years. The majority of tax scams are perpetrated through e-mail phishing schemes; scammers use many different tactics to try to trick victims into thinking they are being contacted by the IRS, credit card companies or financial institutions. E-mails often look official, for example using the IRS logo, and in many cases are addressed to the recipient by name. Phishing e-mails usually tell recipients that there is an issue with their refund, that they are being audited or that there is a problem preventing their taxes from being processed. In most cases, the fraudulent e-mail will provide a hyperlink directing potential victims to a Web site set up by the scammers, where victims are asked for Social Security numbers, bank account information or credit card numbers. Know the red flags: Many tax-related e-mail phishing scams are run by people and organizations operating outside the United States, and their e-mails are often rife with spelling and grammatical mistakes. Also, if the IRS

has questions or concerns with a tax return, they typically contact the taxpayer by mail, not e-mail.

Source: <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/evanston/business/827703,pp-bbb-030608-s1.article>

10. *March 6, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (National) **U.S. worried about foreign investments in U.S. firms.** On Wednesday, two House subcommittees held a hearing to explore the economic and security implications of sovereign wealth funds, which invested an estimated \$21.5 billion in U.S. companies last year. Capital markets subcommittee chairman speculated on the dangers of having hostile foreign governments gain control over U.S. electric utilities. Rather than attack this country with weapons, they instead could “turn off the power” he said. Critics say that while private investors typically seek nothing more than profits, some foreign governments could use their mountains of cash to purchase political or military advantages. Many Western Europeans share this concern. Nervousness has been growing in Washington because the targets of foreign investments so often are U.S. financial giants, which can provide vital expertise in financial systems, including those connected with trade. The Treasury Department’s undersecretary for international affairs acknowledged that fears have been rising along with the number of funds, which have doubled to nearly 40 since 2000. The funds now have as much as \$2.9 trillion in assets, and private analysts project that sum could shoot to \$15 trillion by 2015, he said. Most of the largest funds are operated by Russia and Arab nations that have sold Americans oil, and Asian manufacturing giants that have run up large trade surpluses. As U.S. dollars return to this country via asset purchases by sovereign wealth funds, some transactions “may raise legitimate national security concerns,” the official said. The issue of foreign investments flared up in 2006 when a firm tied to the Dubai government wanted to operate some U.S. ports. That spurred Congress to toughen the rules governing the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. Financial experts say legislating restrictions on sovereign wealth funds may be difficult because the funds can vary so greatly in their practices.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/03/05/sovereign_0306.html

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Transportation Sector

11. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Planes avert mid-air collision near Pittsburgh by 400 feet.** Two airplanes carrying more than 100 passengers narrowly averted a mid-air collision east of Pittsburgh after an Ohio air traffic control trainee told a Delta Air Lines pilot to turn into the path of an oncoming plane, officials said. The Delta pilot made a nosedive and missed the plane by about 400 feet, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The other pilot also took evasive action, the FAA said. A cockpit collision avoidance system alerted the pilots to the danger. Delta Flight 1654 was en route from Cincinnati to LaGuardia International Airport in New York Tuesday morning and was carrying 57 passengers. The other plane, PSA Flight 2273, was flying from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, to Charlotte, North Carolina. It had 70 people on board. The controller only had about a year on the job, said a National Air Traffic Controllers

spokeswoman at the Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center in Oberlin. An FAA spokeswoman called the incident an operational error. She said a second controller was working with the trainee at the time.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,335454,00.html>

12. *March 6, Reuters* – (National) **Southwest may be fined by U.S. regulators: report.**

U.S. aviation regulators are seeking a penalty of at least \$3 million from Southwest Airlines Co for failing to inspect properly more than 40 older planes for structural cracks, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday, citing people familiar with the details. The paper reported that the U.S. Department of Transportation and a congressional committee are examining why the Federal Aviation Administration did not ground the planes last March after learning of the missing inspections. A Southwest spokeswoman said the airline had not been contacted by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080306/bs_nm/southwest_faa_dc

13. *March 6, MainCoastNow.com* – (Maine) **Security clearance sought for town pier.**

Since the Department of Homeland Security adopted regulation T105 after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, cruise ships and large yachts that come from foreign ports have not been permitted to land passengers at the town pier. Bar Harbor Town Council voted Tuesday night to authorize the town staff to seek T105 compliance for the pier. Currently, all cruise ship tenders bring passengers to the privately owned pier at Harbor Place, where they go through security clearance. The town's Cruise Ship Task Force has said the town pier should be another option. The Harbor master said that, with the town's newly imposed daily limit on the number of cruise ship passengers instead of on the number of ships, there could be times where there are too many ships to land their passengers at Harbor Place. He said bringing the pier into compliance with the T105 security regulation involves developing a facility security plan, obtaining approval of the plan from Homeland Security and then implementing the various elements of the plan, such as installing barriers or building a small screening facility for passengers.

Source:

http://www.maine coastnow.com/articles/2008/03/06/bar_harbor_times/local_news/doc47ce6e9559e4f928239915.txt

14. *March 5, CNN* – (District of Columbia) **Jets intercept plane over Washington; no threat posed.**

A small plane violated the temporary flight restriction area over Washington on Wednesday, military and civil aviation officials said, but the aircraft was not believed to have been a threat to the capital. The plane was in airspace near the U.S. Capitol, a federal law enforcement official says. "Two F-16's scrambled and intercepted the aircraft within the restricted airspace. The fighter pilots identified the aircraft and escorted it outside of the restricted airspace," said a North American Aerospace Defense Command spokesman. A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said the plane entered Washington's airspace from the north at 14,500 feet, below the 18,000-foot limit on air traffic. The plane was not deemed to be a threat, and authorities determined that an evacuation of the Capitol was unnecessary, the official said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/03/05/capitol.plane/index.html>

15. *March 5, News-Press* – (Florida) **Naples man arrested for concealed weapon at airport.** On Wednesday, the Lee County, Florida, Port Authority Police arrested a Naples man for carrying a concealed weapon through airport security. According to the police report, the suspect was causing a disturbance at a security checkpoint at Southwest Florida International Airport. The reporting officer said he smelled strongly of alcohol. When he was asked to show identification, officers realized he had a hunting knife with a four-inch blade underneath his vest. The man was booked into the Lee County Jail, but he was not listed as an inmate Wednesday night.
Source: <http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080305/NEWS01/80305069/1002>
16. *March 5, NBC News* – (National) **U.S.-bound private planes face more screening.** The Department of Homeland Security will soon impose new requirements on private planes coming from all over the world into the U.S., intended to prevent terrorists from renting jets to smuggle in a nuclear weapon. By mid-year, the government will require that all private jet flights be reported in advance, with names of crew members and passengers. Homeland Security hopes to have new rules in place by year's end requiring that all flights be screened for nuclear material. The screening would take place outside the continental United States. Planes from Europe, for example, could land at an interim airport overseas for screening. And to make it less burdensome, the flights would also be cleared for customs and immigration so they could land at any airport in the nation. The Homeland Security secretary said about 400 private jets fly from overseas to the U.S. every day. The U.S. also is working with Canada to put similar rules into place for flights arriving there. The official said his department may also work with Latin American countries so that a nuclear bomb could not be flown into those countries on private planes.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23488720/>
17. *March 5, Canadian Press* – (National) **Makeshift bomb major concern of U.S. airport screeners, official says.** A terrorist who could sneak tiny bomb parts on to a plane and assemble them in mid-air is the key worry of American airport screeners, says a senior U.S. official. The deputy administrator of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration said Wednesday the agency is trying to detect small components that might be turned into improvised explosive devices, or airborne IEDs. "These things are what we see as the No. 1 threat today. Getting very small, tiny, hard-to-find component pieces through the checkpoint," he told a conference on aviation security. "The most important part of detecting the IED starts with our officers at the checkpoint and their ability to identify these items." The official said the agency has trained more than 40,000 airport screeners to identify small bomb parts based on information from intelligence reports. It does undercover tests using mock components to keep screeners sharp. And advanced X-ray machines are being rolled out to help them spot the items. The TSA has also begun monitoring passenger behavior at airports to try to detect terrorists.
Source: http://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *March 6, USA Today* – (National) **Law enforcement requests for postal info granted.**

U.S. postal authorities have approved more than 10,000 law enforcement requests to record names, addresses, and other information from the outside of letters and packages of suspected criminals every year since 1998, according to U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) data. In each of those years, officials approved more than 97 percent of requests to record the information during criminal inquiries. In 2004, 2005, and 2006, the most recent year provided, officials granted at least 99.5 percent of requests, according to partial responses to inquiries filed by USA Today under the Freedom of Information Act. Postal officials have closely guarded the warrantless surveillance mail program, used for decades to track fugitives and to interrupt the delivery of illegal drugs or other controlled substances such as explosives. In other government surveillance, such as most wiretap programs, a judge approves requests. In this one, the USPIS' chief inspector has authority to grant or deny a request.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-03-05-mail_N.htm

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *March 5, Salt Lake Tribune* – (National) **Pancake mix, chicken entrees recalled.**

Costco Wholesale is recalling 10,400 pounds of frozen chicken entrees after tests revealed Discover Cuisine products might be contaminated with the bacteria listeria, known to bring about illness or death. And in a smaller recall, the Quaker Oats Co. is recalling 2-pound and 5-pound boxes of Aunt Jemima Pancake & Waffle Mix. These products might have salmonella contamination, which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children and frail or elderly people. No illnesses have been reported with either recall, said officials with the U.S. Department's Food Safety and Inspection Service. The frozen entrees were produced in October and sent to stores in Utah, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The 12-ounce packages of Discover Cuisine Red Curry Chicken & Jasmine Rice are in four-pack containers, each bearing "Est. 302" inside the Canadian Food Inspection Agency mark of inspection, as well as a "Best By" date of "12-18-08." The item number "2880" also appears by the UPC code. In the second, unrelated recall, the Aunt Jemima products were sold with "Best By" dates of "FEB 08 09 H through FEB 16 09 H" stamped on the top. They also contain the following UPC codes: 30000 43272 Aunt Jemima Buttermilk Complete 5 lb.; 30000 05040 Aunt Jemima Original 2 lb.; 30000 05070 Aunt Jemima Original Complete 2 lb.; and 30000 05300 Aunt Jemima Buttermilk Complete 2 lb. Officials said a fraction of the recalled packages were shipped to a limited number of retail outlets in 16 states: Utah, Colorado, Texas, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Illinois, Florida, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York, New Mexico, and Kansas.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_8470178

20. *March 5, Post-Bulletin* – (Nebraska) **Another case of slaughterhouse illness found, this in Nebraska.** An illness identified at a Minnesota slaughterhouse has now been confirmed at three plants nationwide. A third state now has a confirmed case of progressive inflammatory neuropathy (PIN). Thirteen current and former workers at Quality Pork Processors in Austin, Minnesota, developed a variety of neurological symptoms during the past year or more. In late 2007, company officials and medical providers who compared notes realized there was a pattern. They then alerted state health officials. The Minnesota Department of Health, the CDC, Austin Medical Center-Mayo Health System, and the Mayo Clinic undertook an exhaustive investigation that included reviews of slaughterhouses in Indiana and Nebraska. All three plants used compressed air to harvest brain tissue during processing of hog carcasses. The only commonality among all affected workers was that they worked at or near tables where brain was harvested. The Indiana plant reported three confirmed illnesses, but none had been found at the Nebraska plant – until now. That means all three plants in the country that used the compressed-air procedure have employees who became ill. Each plant stopped using the procedure on the advice of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Source:

http://news.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?z=2&a=331688

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Water Sector

21. *March 5, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Residents sue Atlanta over sewers, water damages.** The mayor of Atlanta staked her legacy on a nearly \$4 billion plan to overhaul Atlanta's decrepit sewers and aging water pipes called Clean Water Atlanta. But many city residents are filing lawsuits over crumbling sewers, stopped-up storm drains, and otherwise faulty pipes. About three dozen suits from more than 80 residents throughout the city are pending. The suits could force Atlanta to pay tens of millions in damages. Beyond that, Atlanta faces more than 200 pending claims over water, sewer, and storm water damages on everything from flooding to construction accidents. Atlanta is already liable for more than \$3 million from two flooding lawsuits the city lost. The city has paid off one of the judgments and continues to appeal the second. And while Atlanta plans to spend \$3.9 billion overhauling its sewers, that program does not fix the aged and often overtaxed system of storm drains and catch basins that are supposed to control stormwater but instead flood homes, streets, and businesses every time there is substantial rain.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/03/05/sewersuits_0306.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *March 6, New York Times* – (International) **Drug tied to China had contaminant, F.D.A. says.** Federal drug regulators said Wednesday that a critical blood thinner that had been linked to at least 19 deaths and whose raw components were produced in China contained a possibly counterfeit ingredient that mimicked the real drug. Routine tests failed to distinguish the contaminant from the drug, heparin. Only sophisticated magnetic resonance imaging tests uncovered that as much as 20 percent of the product's active ingredient was a heparin mimic blended in with the real thing. Federal officials said they did not know what the contaminant was. Scientific Protein Laboratories, based in Waunakee, Wisconsin, bought raw heparin produced, in some cases in small, unregulated family workshops in China, and processed it in plants in Wisconsin and China, according to heparin traders and producers in China. Baxter International purchased the active ingredient from Scientific Protein and sold the finished drug. The F.D.A. has now received 785 reports of serious injuries associated with the drug's use. Forty-six deaths have also been reported to the agency, but only 19 of these appeared related to the suspect heparin. Baxter executives said that the total death toll was actually four.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/06/health/06heparin.html?ex=1205470800&en=fc69a21b13410391&ei=5065&partner=MYWAY>

23. *March 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Drug prices rose 7.4 percent, AARP says.** The wholesale prices of brand name medicines most commonly prescribed to elderly Americans increased an average of 7.4 percent last year, an increase about 2.5 times greater than general inflation, says a study released Wednesday by the advocacy group AARP. The study looked at 220 brand name prescription drugs and found that all but four had wholesale price increases in 2007. Among the top 25 medicines, the sleep aid Ambien had the largest price increase (27.7 percent). At the other end of the list were the blood thinner Plavix (0.5 percent increase) and the cholesterol drug Zocor (no increase). The increase in drug prices in 2007 continues a long-standing trend, said the AARP, which noted that price increases have been slightly larger since the Medicare drug benefit took effect January 1, 2006. In the four years before the drug benefit was launched, wholesale drug prices increased between 5.3 percent and 6.6 percent a year, according to AARP figures.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/sfl-305drugprices,0,2209574.story>

24. *March 5, HealthDay* – (National) **Many Americans have trouble paying for drugs: survey.** Many Americans say that they have trouble paying for drugs or that they skip prescriptions or cut pills because of the costs, according to a survey released Tuesday by USA Today, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Harvard School of Public Health. The national telephone survey of 1,695 found that 40 percent of Americans (and half of those who regularly take at least one medication) reported at least one of three cost-related concerns in their family: 16 percent said they have a "serious" problem paying for prescription drugs; 29 percent said they have not filled a prescription in the past two years because of the cost; and 23 percent said they have cut pills in half or skipped doses

in order to make medications last longer. These types of issues were most common among people who lack drug coverage (52 percent), have low incomes (54 percent), and those who take at least four drugs regularly (59 percent).

Source: <http://health.usnews.com/usnews/health/healthday/080305/health-highlights-march-5-2008.htm>

25. *March 4, Engineer Online* – (National) **Killing the bugs.** In tests conducted for the U.S. Department of Defense, BioBlower, a new air sterilization system developed at the University at Buffalo has killed every biological agent which it has been presented with, including airborne spores, viruses, and bacteria. The system is based on a modification of a Roots blower, a mechanical air-pump technology, which has been in existence for more than 100 years. The system works by rapidly heating contaminated air under pressure and mechanically compressing it as it is being blown rapidly through the mechanical rotary pump. The system then blows the disinfected air back into the enclosed environment - whether it is a tank, plane, ship, tent, or building. Conventional technologies involve the use of HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) filters, which simply trap large airborne spores. These passive filters have to be regularly replaced and properly discarded, posing a further potential hazard to personnel. In addition, they provide little or no protection against airborne viruses. In contrast, he noted, the BioBlower immediately kills any and all airborne biological pathogens and only electricity is needed to power the rotary air pump, which drives the blower. BioBlower units can be installed as a permanent part of a building's air-handling (HVAC) system, including on military bases. The technology also has potential applications in health-care and hospital settings. The New York State Foundation for Science, Technology, and Academic Research currently is funding development of a BioBlower prototype for health-care settings with the goal of taking it into clinical trials.

Source: <http://www.theengineer.co.uk/Articles/304847/Killing+the+bugs.htm>

Government Facilities Sector

26. *March 6, Associated Press* – (International) **Philippine authorities arrest 3 Middle Eastern men in plot to bomb embassies.** Philippine authorities have arrested three Middle Eastern men suspected of involvement in a plot to bomb the American embassy and three other foreign missions in Manila, officials said Thursday. Two senior Filipino security officials told the Associated Press that investigators were verifying intelligence information that the three may have been involved in an active plot to bomb the U.S., British, Australian, and Israeli embassies in Manila. Authorities believe the three may have links with the Indonesia-based militant group Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf, a small but violent southern Philippine-based group blacklisted by Washington as a terror organization. Funding for the plot had been secured, indicating that a planned attack against the embassies may have already been in an advanced stage, one of the security officials said, adding that all the embassies concerned have been notified. All three suspects are Middle Eastern, but investigators were still trying to verify their identities.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,335434,00.html>

27. *March 6, Associated Press* – (California) **UC Davis student in custody after explosives found in dorm.** A student at the University of California, Davis, is in custody after authorities say they found explosive devices in a dorm room. The university police captain tells the Sacramento Bee that investigators found what appeared to be two pipe bombs in a dorm. Police say after questioning four students they arrested a freshman from southern California. He is being held on possession of materials with the intent to make an explosive or destructive device and other charges. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,335509,00.html>
28. *March 6, CNN* – (New York) **Bicyclist sought in Times Square bombing.** Authorities are searching for a man on a bicycle as a possible suspect in the Thursday bombing at a military recruiting station in Times Square, investigators said. The blast, around 3:45 a.m., caused no injuries. Subway service to Times Square was briefly halted but resumed in time for the morning rush hour. A witness and an officer at a police substation near the recruiting office saw a man riding a bicycle, the police commissioner said at a news conference. They did not see the man's face, but he was wearing a backpack. The bomb consisted of some kind of "low order explosive" contained in a military-style ammunition box. "This was not a particularly sophisticated device," the commissioner said. No one saw the device being placed, and no one has taken responsibility for the attack, according to New York's mayor. The recruiting office, one of the nation's busiest, has been the site of periodic anti-war protests, the Associated Press reported. After the incident, the Army sent an alert to the 1,650 Army recruiting stations across the country, said a spokesman from the U.S. Army Recruiting Command. The blast is similar to two other incidents in New York, one in October and one in May 2005. Both times an explosive device was detonated around 3 a.m. Source: http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/03/06/times.square/index.html?eref=rss_latest
29. *March 5, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **NJ authorities foil "military style" school massacre plot.** A developing plot to stage a "military-style assault" at a high school near the end of the school year has been foiled, authorities said. One person has been charged in the ongoing investigation, which began this week after officials at Belvidere High School heard allegations that a 17-year-old student was developing a hit list of students and teachers, a state police spokesman said Wednesday night. School officials notified Belvidere police, who soon involved the state police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the region's Joint Terrorism Task Force. "Investigators learned that the military-style plot was being developed, and that (those involved) had begun doing surveillance work at the school and were working to identify possible escape routes," the spokesman said. The student has been hospitalized for a mental health evaluation. He has not yet been charged. Another suspect was charged with creating a false public alarm, making terroristic threats, and hindering apprehension. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,335409,00.html>
30. *March 5, HOI 19 Peoria* – (Illinois) **Illinois State University threats.** Illinois State University police say they are looking into the sixth campus threat made in graffiti in the past week. Some of them refer to the shootings that happened at Northern Illinois

University on Valentine's Day. Police say Wednesday a staff member discovered someone wrote "NIU 3/6 Die" in a women's bathroom. Last week several graffiti threats were discovered on campus including one that said I.S.U. is the next N.I.U.

Source: http://www.hoinews.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=104098

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *March 6, KTAR 92.3 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Firefighters train for worst case scenario in bad fire season.** Loading helicopter buckets with water, staging worst-case scenarios, firefighters from a number of agencies conducted a major training exercise at McDowell Mountains Regional Park near Fountain Hills, Arizona. With heavy vegetation across the Valley from winter rains, firefighters fear a bad season, starting around mid-April, maybe earlier. "They've gone to great lengths to make this very realistic," said a Tempe Fire Department representative as the two-day exercise began Wednesday. "When all of this shrubbery dries out, that's when we're going to have the problems," he said. Last year, almost 2,000 wildfires charred 64,000 acres in Arizona. Arizona's most recent wet winter, in 2005, led to the Cave Creek Fire, which burned 248,000 acres from Bartlett Lake to New River. Scottsdale's fire chief said firefighters face even bigger challenges because there are more homes in the area now than in the past. He urged homeowners to help reduce the fire danger. "We ask the public's cooperation – to clear around their homes, have a water hose available, any combustible material around their homes, clear that out to where we can prevent structures from being affected by some of these wildfires." More than 100 firefighters and other emergency personnel from nearly 30 agencies across the state participated in the training, coordinated by the Scottsdale Fire Department and Central Arizona Wildland Response Team.

Source: <http://ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=754882>

32. *March 5, Government Technology* – (National) **Final changes for 2008 Emergency Response Guidelines.** The long-awaited arrival of the 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook, the emergency preparedness guide that helps transporters, police, fire personnel and other emergency responders quickly identify the hazards of materials involved in an incident, is expected mid May. The 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook replaces the 2004 edition with the latest emergency response guidelines. The Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has just issued a formal summary of changes from the 2004 edition. To view the anticipated emergency response guideline changes or to reserve copies of the 2008 Guidebook, visit www.jjkeller.com/21209.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/270228?topic=117693>

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Information Technology

33. *March 6, ComputerWeekly* – (International) **Anti-malware failing firms, NATO expert says.** Organizations with sensitive data remain at risk from increasingly cunning

spies because anti-malware firms are not interested in “low traffic” problems, a top NATO expert said yesterday. The head of the Nato Computer Incident Response Capability Coordination Center, told an e-crime conference that anti-malware suppliers had done a good job, but said that it was hard to interest them in targeted, social engineering driven attacks by foreign intelligence agencies. NATO uses commercial off-the-shelf products to protect its business and administration network, he said. “I have little sympathy for IT managers who complain about attacks because affordable, deployable solutions are available.” But they needed to be applied properly and kept up to date, he said. “The computer is almost the perfect weapon,” he said. It is low cost, low risk, multipurpose, locatable anywhere, easily deployed and very effective, he said. That is why NATO rated cybercrime up with missile defense, energy supply and terrorism as security threats, he said. He said NATO would publish its new plan that reflects this assessment at its Bucharest meeting next month.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2008/03/06/229732/anti-malware-failing-firms-nato-expert-says.htm>

34. *March 05, United Press International* – (National) **OMB issues report of US federal gov’t IT security.** The White House Office of Management and Budget says that the number of computer security incidents reported by federal network managers more than doubled last year, largely due to increases in the disclosure or loss of personal data and intrusions of an as-yet undetermined character. Officials said the increase was at least in part due to improved reporting of incidents by departments and agencies, and touted other figures in the report to lawmakers, released quietly at the weekend, that showed that the number of federal computer systems certified secure had finally reached a 90-percent government-wide goal set in 2002. But other observers said the rise was likely in part attributable to an increase in the number and severity of attacks. “The level of malicious activity accelerated sharply in 2007” on the public and private sector networks we know about, said the president of the Cyber-Security Industry Alliance. He said it was likely federal networks had experienced a similar rise in malicious activities. The report says the threat to U.S. government computer systems was “shifting from opportunistic hacking to targeted, dynamically adapting attacks” and acknowledged that “a long-term architectural roadmap is necessary to provide a consistent strategy for mitigating malicious cyber activity.” The total number of security incidents reported in 2007 by departments and agencies to the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) – the monitoring center based at the Department of Homeland Security – rose to 12,986, compared with 5,146 in 2006.

Source:

http://www.spacewar.com/reports/OMB_Issues_Report_Of_US_Federal_Govt_IT_Security_999.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

35. *March 6, US Internet Industry Association news release* – (National) **New study reports wide adoption of broadband in rural America.** Broadband Internet has not only gained adoption faster in the United States than any other technology, but also reached robust levels of availability in most states, according to a report issued today from the US Internet Industry Association. The study, “Deployment of Broadband to Rural America; An Evaluation of Current Broadband Services to Rural Americans and The Impact of Internet Public Policy On Broadband Deployment,” was written by the USIIA’s president and chief executive officer. “The accepted political dogma that America has in some way failed in its efforts to deploy broadband is based on a series of miscalculations,” he said. There are three issues that contribute to these miscalculations: too often the level of Internet deployment is confused with the level of adoption; data from America is compared with data from other countries, without regard for factors such as population density or percentage of rural versus suburban or urban areas; and the data that does exist is presented in ways intended to support a specific policy or political view rather than allowing the data to speak to itself. While adoption has been rapid, hitting 50 percent of the overall U.S. homes in the second half of 2007, it has not matched the pace of deployment, the study shows. In states like Kentucky and California, deployment surpasses 95 percent. Specific projects in those and other states and areas have pushed deployment to these levels. Rural areas, despite lower population density, do not have to lag behind. In Iowa, for example, rural communities often have better access than non-rural areas, a “reverse digital divide,” according to the study. However, despite this deployment, there remain substantial differences between rates of rural deployment and rates of adoption of broadband. “Programs that focus resources on factors relating to adoption need to be strengthened,” the author said. The full study can be found at <http://usiamedia.com>
Source: http://www.agrimarketing.com/show_story.php?id=48388

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

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Dams Sector

36. *March 6, West Central Tribune*– (Minnesota) **Granite Falls looking to reclassify dam.** City Council members heard encouraging news in the city’s efforts to reclassify the risk potential for the Granite Falls dam. The city manager told council members on Monday that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has indicated that information submitted by the city appears to support the downgrade being requested for the low-head dam. It is asking the city to update the information submitted to take into account the potential for a newly built floodwall in the downtown area to fail during a dam break. It has asked the city to include an assessment of how properties protected by the wall would be evacuated in the event of simultaneous failure of the dam and floodwall. The city is seeking to have the dam changed from its current “high hazard” classification to a “significant” classification.

Source: <http://www.wctrib.com/articles/index.cfm?id=34214§ion=News>

37. *March 6, Santa Maria Times* – (California) **Local officials visit LA to be sure levee project expedited.** Efforts to study and repair deficiencies with the Santa Maria River Levee remain on track, and federal officials have established an aggressive timeline that could see construction begin in two years. Santa Maria and Santa Barbara County officials met with local members of the Army Corps of Engineers in Los Angeles this week to ensure that the levee project is on an expedited schedule so that efforts to lobby for construction money can begin. The Army Corps received \$280,000 as part of a federal spending bill for fiscal year 2008, which is earmarked to be spent on a study that will analyze the best way to fix the 26-mile levee. The Santa Maria River Levee consists of river sand formed into a berm and fronted with an 18-inch-thick rock face. The rocks holding the sand in place are deteriorating, which leaves portions of the levee vulnerable to washing away.

Source:

<http://www.santamariatimes.com/articles/2008/03/06/news/featurednews/news01.txt>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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